COME TO RUSSIA

Morning
Midday
Full title Soyuz Sovyetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – USSR). The USSR was founded on 30 December 1922. It is a union of 15 independent Socialist Republics.
Coastline (total) about 43,000 km.
Area 22,395,000 square km. Russia is the biggest country on earth. It is about two and a half times as large as the USA.
Russian whaling fleet
Polar bear
FINLAND
Murmansk
BALTIC SEA
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Leningrad, Russia's second city, and the main cultural centre
HUNGARY
POLAND
Riga
Leningrad
Arkhangelsk
ARCTIC CIRCLE
St Basil's cathedral, Moscow
Siberian tiger, now rare, is paler than the tigers of south east Asia
Horse-drawn sledges are still used in winter
Vodka, Russia's national drink, is made from rye
Odessa Steps, made famous by the film Battleship Potemkin
ROMANIA
Kiev
Moscow
R. Oka
URAL MOUNTAINS
Wolves and bears roam the Siberian forests
Odessa
R. Dnieper
A Bolshoi ballet dancer
R. Ob
R. Yenisey
R. Volga
Vineyards
Sevastopol
Hydro-electric schemes
Black Sea
R. Don
Samovar
Tea-picking
Matryoshka dolls
TURKEY
Omsk
Novosibirsk
Astrakhan
The Trans-Siberian Railway – the world's longest railway
CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS
Caspian Sea
Aral Sea
Baikonur
Soviet space-launching site
Baku
Sturgeon. Its roe (caviar) is a great delicacy
Lake Balkhash
Cotton
Fine rugs have been made in Turkestan for centuries
IRAN
Tashkent
Alma Ata
Bukhara
Samarkand
Yaks, the cattle of the Himalayas
A Muslim minaret – still seen in Uzbekistan and other Asiatic areas of Russia.
Highest mountain Communism Peak (7495 metres).
AFGHANISTAN
Communism Peak

Evening
Time zones The USSR covers 11 of the world's 24 time zones. There is a 10-hour difference from west to east. When it is 8 o'clock in the morning in Leningrad, it is 6 o'clock in the evening of the same day on the pacific coast.
Reindeer
Silver fox
ARCTIC OCEAN
BERING SEA
Walrus
Ermine (called a stoat in summer)
CHERSKIY MOUNTAINS
Verkhoyansk
Coldest town in the world (−67°C in mid-winter)
Siberia's vast mineral wealth is being exploited
VERKHOYANSK MOUNTAINS
The taiga – vast conifer forests – cover most of Siberia
SIBERIA
R. Lena
In desert areas camels are still used to carry loads
R. Amur
Baikal seal — the world's only fresh-water seal
Lake Baikal
Irkutsk
Panda
CHINA
SEA OF JAPAN
Vladivostok
JAPAN
A 'yurt' or felt tent used by nomadic peoples
A Mongolian horseman
MONGOLIA
Population 255 million, of whom three-quarters live in the western part of the USSR. In population Russia is the third largest country. It includes over 150 different racial groups.
Language Russian is the official language. About 150 other languages are also spoken.
Reading The Soviet citizen spends an average of 31 minutes a day reading books.
Centenarians Russia has the world's largest number of people aged over 100 – in 1970 there were 19,300 headed by Medjid Agayev, aged 142.
Imports Grain, industrial equipment, chemicals, electrical machinery.
Exports Machinery, minerals, timber, furs, oil, metal goods. Most of this trade is with the Communist countries of eastern Europe.
Largest desert Kara Kum (300,000 square km).
Principal cities:
Moscow (Russian SFSR)
Leningrad (Russian SFSR)
Kiev (Ukrainian SSR)
Tashkent (Uzbek SSR)
Baku (Azerbaijan SSR)
Kharkov (Ukrainian SSR)
Gorky (Russian SFSR)
Novosibirsk (Russian SFSR)
Chief ports:
Murmansk (Arctic Ocean)
Archangelsk (White Sea)
Leningrad (Baltic Sea)
Kalinin (Baltic Sea)
Riga (Baltic Sea)
Odessa (Black Sea)
Baku (Caspian Sea)
Vladivostok (Pacific Ocean)
Longest rivers
Yenisey (4000 km)
Lena (4000 km)
Amur (2800 km)
Volga (3700 km)
Largest lake Caspian Sea (438,695 square km.), an inland salt lake which is also the largest lake in the world.

[Russia] is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

Churchill, from a broadcast, 1939

Russia has paid her way to Marxism by her suffering.

Lenin

Scratch a Russian and you'll find a Tartar.

19th century proverb

Communism has to be built with people, not with bricks.

Solzhenitsyn, For the Good of the Cause

Only the migratory birds know the limits of the taiga.

Chekhov

COME TO RUSSIA

Brian Williams

HUTCHINSON OF LONDON

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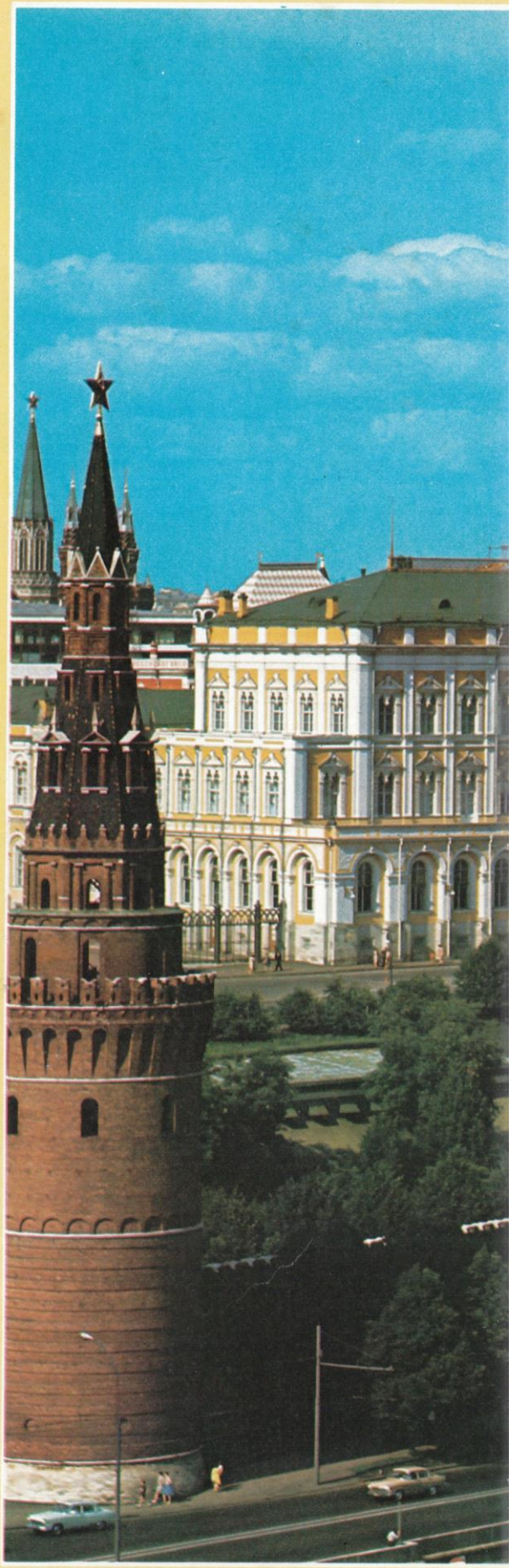
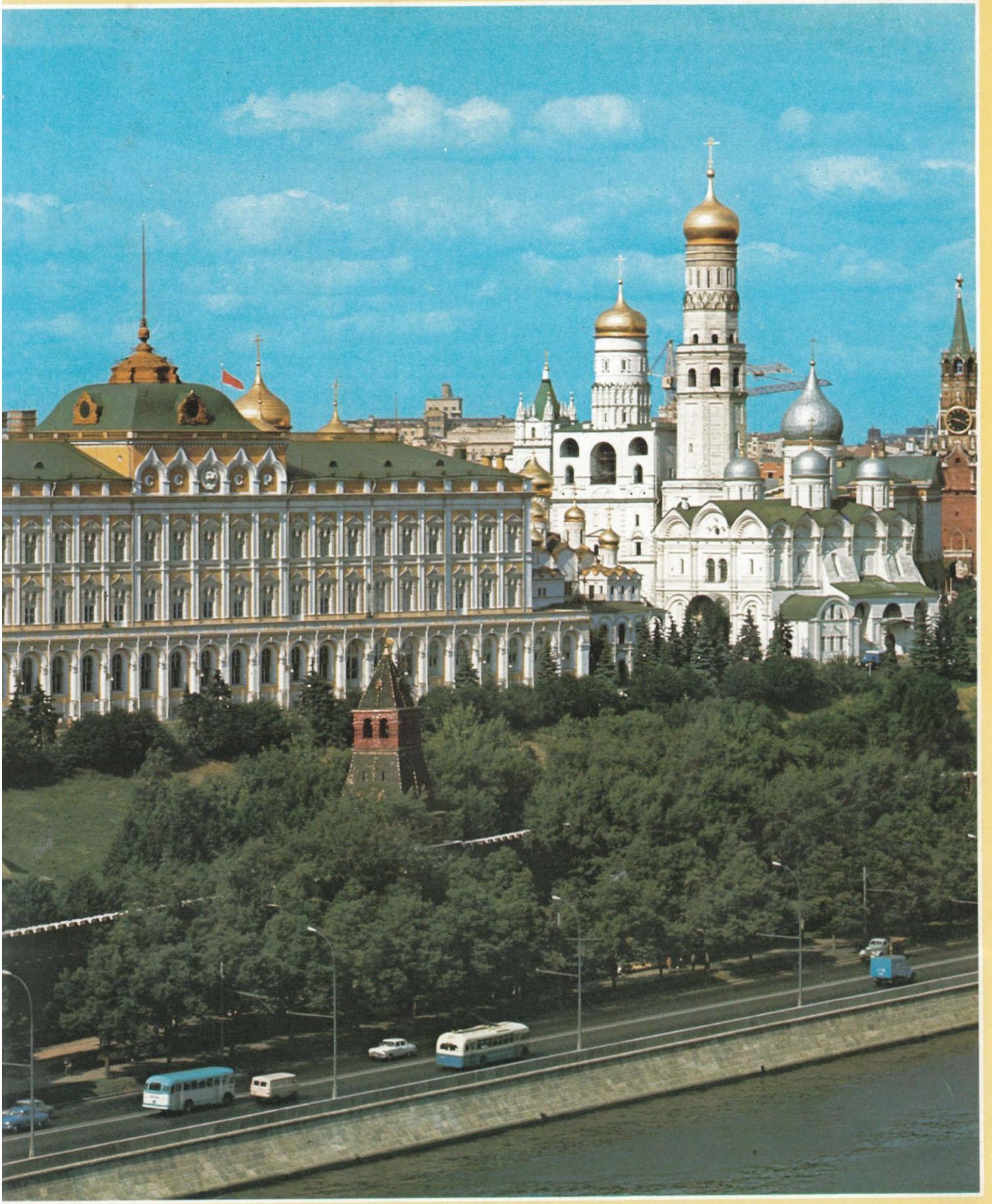


Moscow. A view from the river Moskva of the Kremlin, once the home of the Tsars, now seat of the government of one of the world's 'superpowers'. Notice that many of the buildings are topped with a red star.


С С Р С Р

Welcome to Russia

Russia is vastly different from America or any western European country. The first thing you might notice on the ride into the centre of Moscow from the airport is the spacious roads and how few cars there are. Then you might notice a certain lack of colour: few roadside hoardings, no gaily painted vans advertising different products, but a great many patriotic and political posters. This is because there are no private firms in Russia. All factories are owned by the state and so there is no rivalry between firms trying to advertise their goods. Shops are also state owned.

You might also find strange the number of women that you see doing what we often think of as men's jobs. Warmly clad people clearing away snow from the roads are most likely to be women. Most doctors are women and there are as many women engineers and factory bosses as there are men.

Everywhere you will see the letters CCCP (pronounced 'es-es-es-air' in Russian). These stand for USSR–the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which is the full title of the country. Sometimes Russians address each other as *Tovarisch* or 'comrade'. This is because they regard everyone as equal partners in a classless state.

All these and many, many more less obvious differences are the result of an event that took place over 60 years ago–an event called the Russian Revolution.

Until 1917 Russia was a backward empire ruled by Tsars. Most of the land was owned by a few rich people who paid the peasants as little as possible to work on their land. There was terrible poverty and very little industry. Then came the Revolution. The Tsar was overthrown and Russia became the first Communist country. Since then Russia has become rich and powerful.

The founder of modern Russia was the Communist leader Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. There are statues of him in every town and portraits of him hang on the walls of classrooms and public buildings. Lenin believed that workers should control factories, farms, transport, schools and newspapers –in fact every aspect of life.

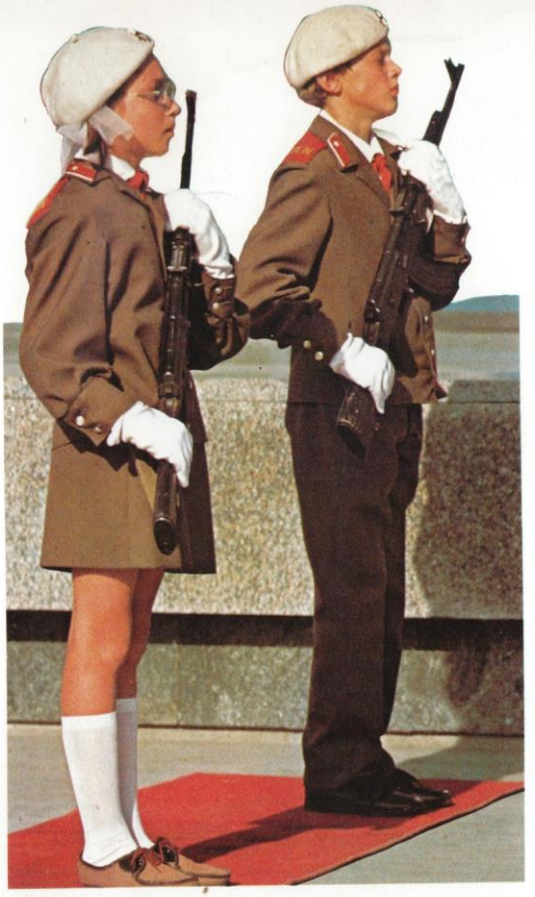
The Russians are proud of the material benefit their system has brought. But compared with democratic countries there is very little freedom. The Communist party is the only party allowed; workers are forbidden to strike; religion is discouraged as being 'anti-Communist', the press and television are strictly censored; and anyone who speaks out against the government or the Communist party faces serious trouble.

Opposite left: Young Pioneers on guard duty at a war memorial in Irkutsk.

Opposite right: A patriotic poster showing Lenin and workers on a roadside in Bukhara,

Right: A May Day procession through Moscow's Red Square. These spectacular parades of workers, athletes, armaments and scientific achievements pass by the tomb of Lenin (on the left of the picture).

Below: Everyone who can has to work. The Russians have made great sacrifices and suffered terrible hardships—even persecution—to turn a backward country ruled by Tsars into a modern communist super-power. The communist system has brought many benefits—better houses, better education, more goods and work for all; it has yet to bring the greatest benefit—freedom.



НИЗМ
СТРОИМ-

Moscow

Moscow is really two cities in one. It is shaped like a giant wheel. At the hub, on the banks of the Moskva river, lies the old city, dating from the Middle Ages. The spokes of the wheel are the roads leading out to the suburbs where most Muscovites live.

At the heart of the old city is the triangular-shaped Kremlin ('citadel'). It was once the home of the Tsars but is now the seat of the Soviet government. Rising above its walls you will see the onion domes and spires of churches and palaces, and the Spasskaya Clock Tower (Moscow's Big Ben).

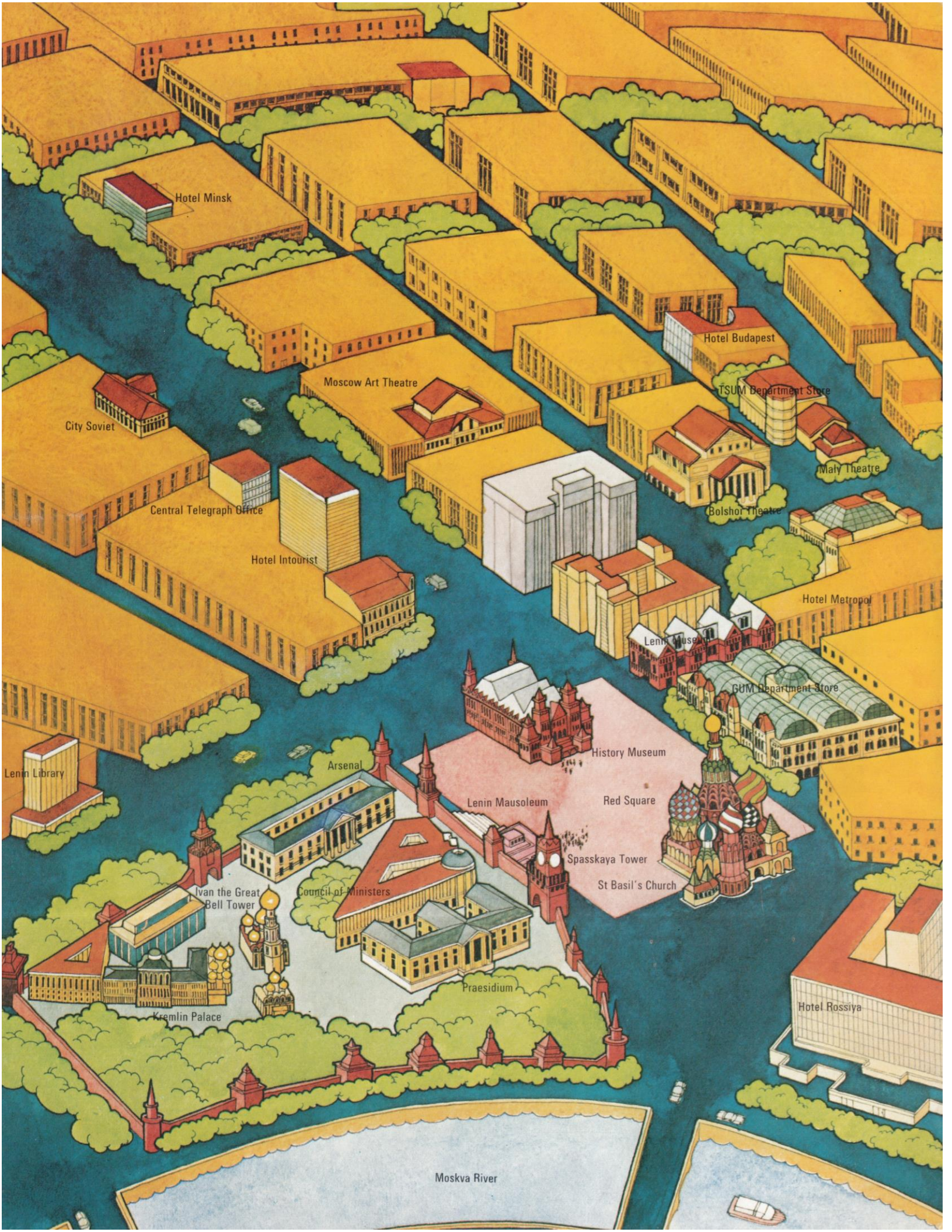
Next to the Kremlin is the vast and beautiful Red Square. Its name has nothing to do with the 'Red' Revolution. The word for red (krasnyi) in Russian once meant beautiful. Red Square is the scene twice a year (in May and November) of great parades of soldiers, workers, schoolchildren, athletes, decorated floats and military equipment. The seemingly endless procession pays homage to Lenin as it passes the tomb where his body lies in state.

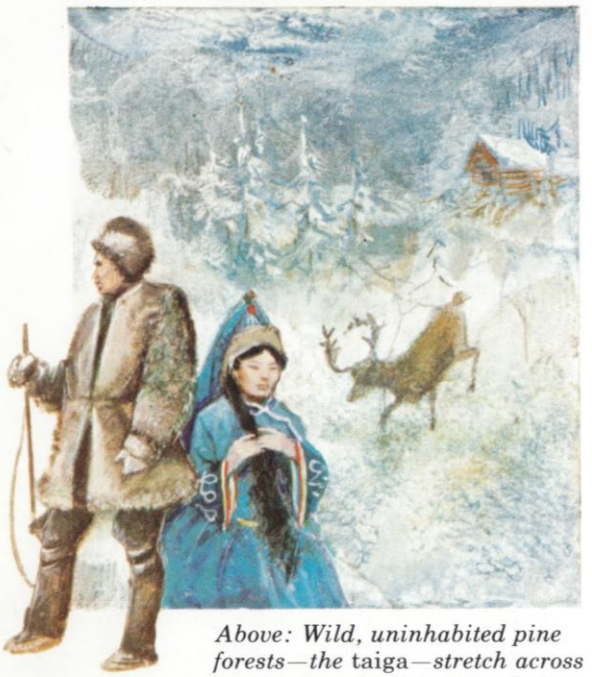
Like all capital cities, Moscow offers many attractions: shops selling goods from all over the USSR, restaurants serving national dishes from the republics, theatres, cinemas and parks. A visit to the Bolshoi ballet is a treat – if you can get a ticket. And for sports fans, Moscow boasts one of the largest arenas in the world, the Lenin Stadium.

Above: Muscovites are very proud of their Underground railway or Metro. It has 90 stations and each station is decorated with mosaics and murals, and some marble entrance halls are lit by glass chandeliers.

Right: An exaggerated view of the Kremlin – the 'hub' of Moscow; the 'spokes' lead out to the suburbs.

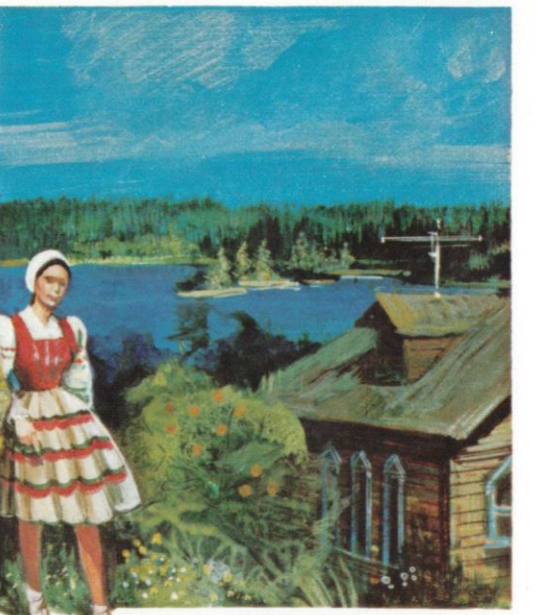
The best time to visit Moscow is in the spring. The sun melts the snow which has lain thick in the streets during the long, freezing winter. Strolling in the open air becomes a pleasure once more. Everyone looks cheerful, and none more so than the street traders selling balloons, flowers and ice cream.


Hotel Minsk
Hotel Budapest
Moscow Art Theatre
TSUM Department Store
City Soviet
Maly Theatre
Central Telegraph Office
Bolshoi Theatre
Hotel Intourist
Hotel Metropol
Lenin Museum
GUM Department Store
History Museum
Arsenal
Lenin Library
Lenin Mausoleum
Red Square
Spasskaya Tower
St Basil's Church
Ivan the Great Bell Tower
Council of Ministers
Praesidium
Kremlin Palace
Hotel Rossiya
Moskva River



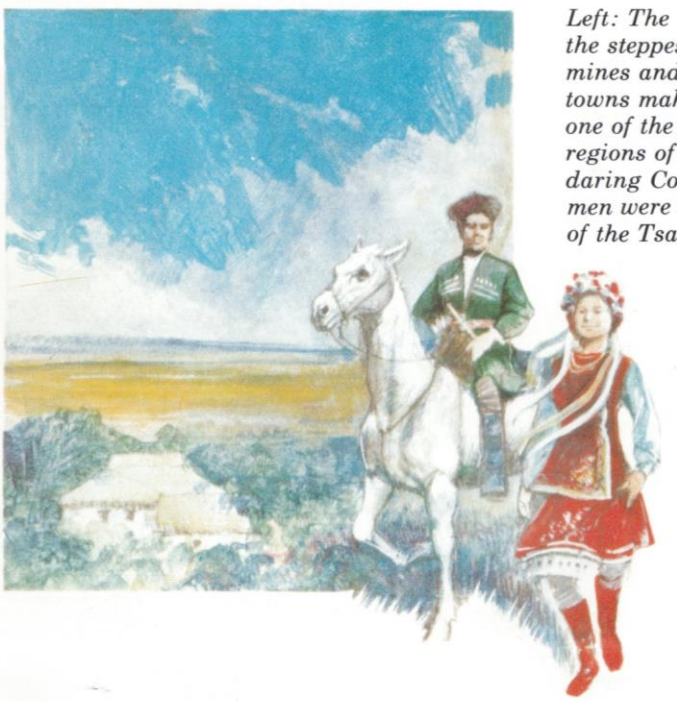
Above: Wild, uninhabited pine forests—the taiga*—stretch across much of northern Russia. Only a few hunters and herdsmen follow the reindeer herds through the snowbound wilderness.*

Right: Belorussians, or White Russians, are Slavs. Their land is a region of forests, lakes and marshes.

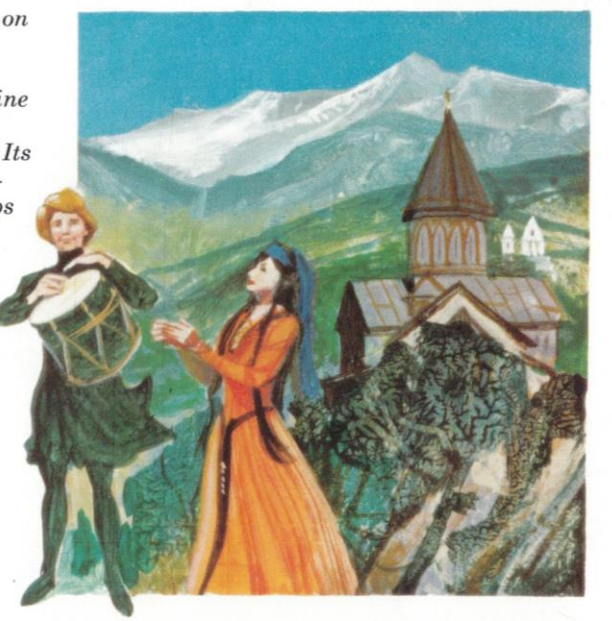


Below right: Georgia and Armenia have a common border with Turkey. Their people are the two chief nationality groups of the Caucasus. The region is famous for its folk dances and costumes.

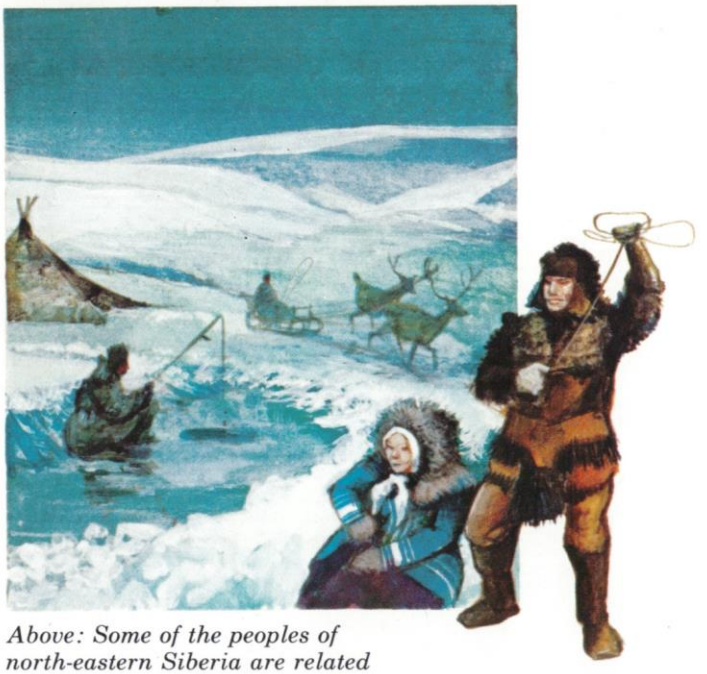
A Nation of Nations



Left: The wheatfields on the steppes and the mines and industrial towns make the Ukraine one of the richest regions of the USSR. Its daring Cossack horsemen were an elite corps of the Tsar's army.



Russia is so big that when the sun is rising in Moscow in the west, it is evening at the eastern end of the continent. The Soviet Union stretches across 11 time zones.



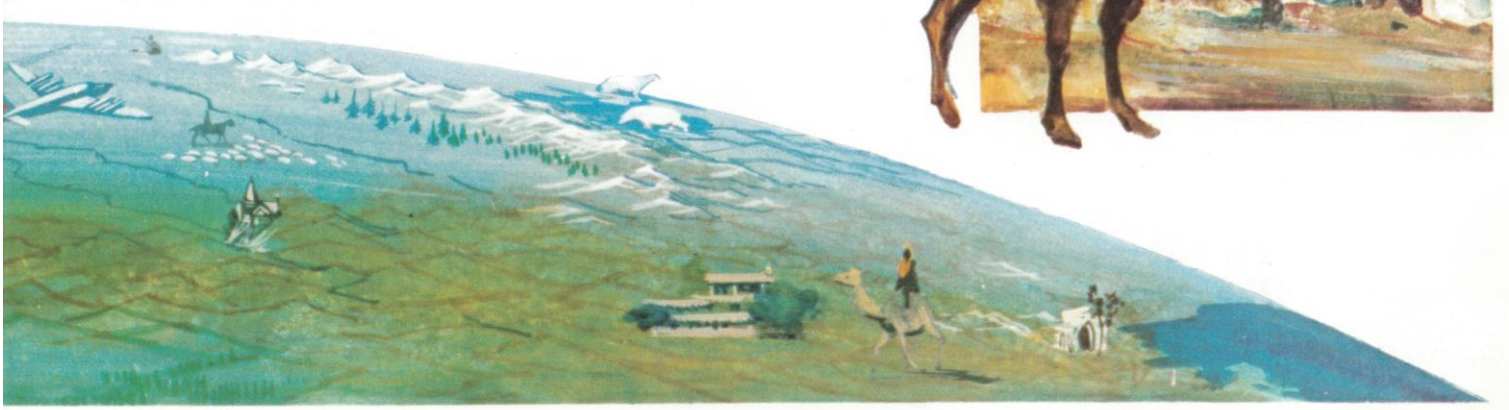
Above: Some of the peoples of north-eastern Siberia are related to Eskimos and North American Indians who crossed the land bridge to America thousands of years ago.

No other country in the world has Russia's great variety of peoples, with their different languages, dress and customs. Russian engineers, Ukrainian farmers, Kazakh horsemen, Yakut herdsmen, Chukchi hunters, Turkmen camel drivers—all these and more make up over 100 nationality groups in Russia's population.

The largest group of people, forming about three-quarters of the total, are Slavs. This group includes Great Russians, Belorussians, and Ukrainians. Next come the Turkic people, the descendants of the Tartars. Other peoples of the USSR include Finns, Latvians, Armenians, Georgians, Kurds, Tadzhiks and Eskimos.

Left: The sunny lands which stretch between the Caspian sea and China include Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The people are mostly Turkic.

Below: A large part of Mongolia, between Russia and China, is covered by the Gobi desert. The people are the descendants of Genghiz and Kublai Kahn, whose savage Mongol hordes swept over Russia in the 13th century.



A Family at Home

Here you see a Russian family at supper in their Moscow flat. Before the Second World War, Moscow was very overcrowded. Many families lived in old tumble-down tenements. Today people are being rehoused in new estates near the factories where they work.

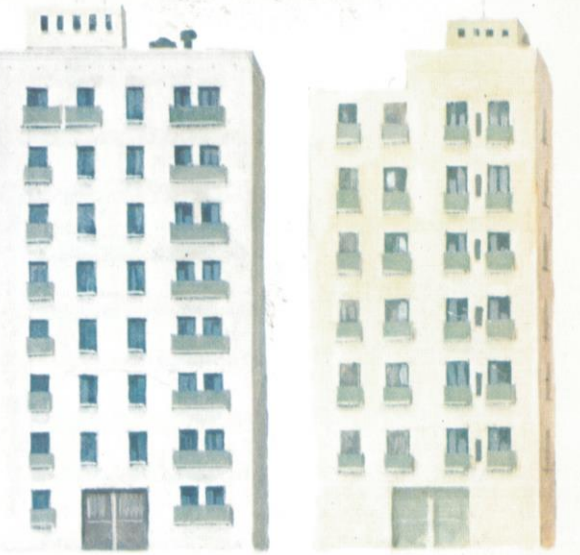
As both parents go out to work, grandmother *(babushka)* is a most useful member of the family. She helps to look after the children, goes to the market, and cooks the meals. The flat is small, but the rent is extremely low, and it has a neat kitchen and bathroom. In the old tenements several families had to share a kitchen. And, unheard of in the past, it has central heating. There is no garden, but the living room is always full of pot plants and flowers.

In the evening, when the children's homework is finished, the whole family watch television. The carefully censored programmes are relayed from Moscow by satellite to the most distant parts of the USSR.

A Country Refuge

In every Russian city you will see many new tower blocks of flats like the ones opposite. Such flats are gradually solving Russia's terrible housing shortage. In Moscow a new flat is finished every four minutes! Many 'top' people also have a small weekend *dacha* (cottage) where they can escape from the city bustle. The dacha may be a tiny old wooden house or – for important Party members – a comfortable new house built on land supplied by the state.

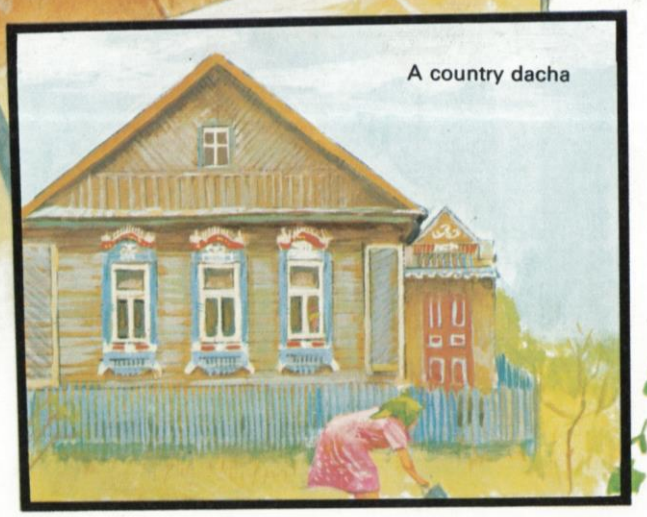
Like most flats in Russia this one is rather crowded. There is only one bedroom, so grandmother and the children sleep on divans in the living room. There are photographs of other members of the family (and also a portrait of Lenin). The family's most treasured items of furniture are probably the Oriental-looking carpet from Samarkand and the embroidered table-cloth.



Below: Russian food is simple but filling. Favourite dishes include porridge, pancakes (often stuffed with meat), pasties, cabbage and beetroot soup, salads of mixed vegetables, radishes and pickled cucumbers, and ice cream. Russians eat dark brown rye bread and prefer to drink their tea with lemon or jam. An expensive luxury is caviar.

The Russian tea-urn, or samovar, *is a burner to keep the tea hot.*

Instead of a packet of tea, many Russians still prefer to buy a tea 'brick' made from compressed tea dust or leaves. They break off pieces from the brick and boil them for a long time. In the old days these bricks were easier to carry than loose tea on the long caravan route from Asia.



A country dacha

At the Shops

Above: A rouble note. A rouble is divided into 100 kopecks.

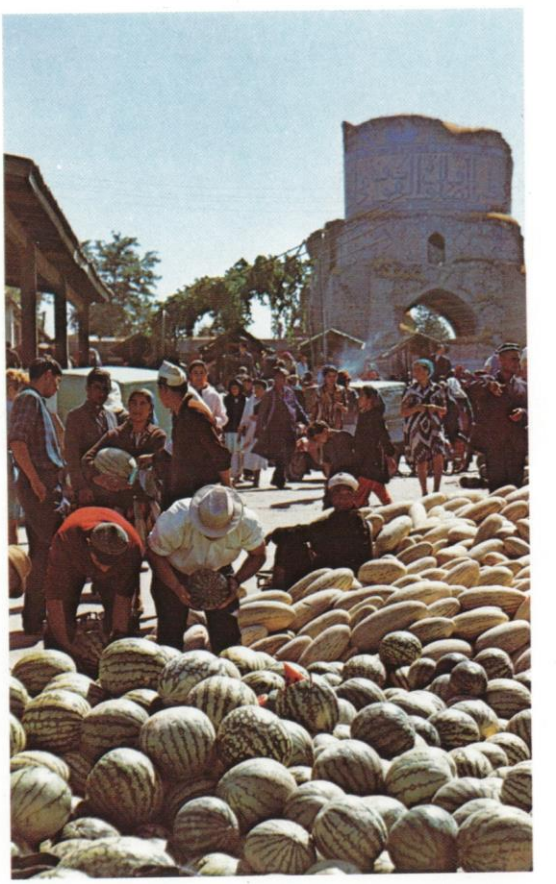
There are special shops for foreign tourists, but any shopping expedition should include a trip to GUM (pronounced 'goom'), Moscow's huge department store. It sells all kinds of goods (though the quality is sometimes poor because competition is absent), and crowds of shoppers stroll along its ornate galleries. Russian toys are famous, and Moscow's biggest toy shop, called Children's World, is a great attraction.

Prices in Russian shops are state controlled. Food prices seldom rise. There are few privately owned shops – even hairdressers are state-owned. But you can buy ice cream, flowers and fruit from street traders.

There is always a shortage of something in Russia, whether it be onions, shoes or toothpaste. So no Russian woman is ever without a shopping bag – known as a 'maybe bag', for maybe she will be lucky enough to come across something that is in short supply.

Left: Inside the big GUM department store are many galleries. The shop stalls are tucked away under the arches so that people can stroll freely along the central passage ways.

Below: Melons for sale at the bazaar in Samarkand. Peasants are allowed to sell what they can grow on their small plots of land, but they are not supposed to work on their own land until after they have done enough work on the state collective farms.



Above: Boys at the barre in the Bolshoi Ballet School.
Below: The pinnacle of ambition for a bright young Russian is to become a student at Moscow's State University. The University is the oldest in Russia, but the present building was opened in 1953.

Young Russia

Russia is a country of the young. You will see children wherever you go – in kindergarten, going to school, visiting museums, training and practising sports.

Children are expected to work very hard at school – six days a week. Classes start at eight in the morning and boys and girls are taught together. Most teachers are women. Schoolchildren are particularly encouraged to be engineers, doctors, and scientists. Apart from their ordinary lessons, schoolchildren are taught about Communism and how to be good Soviet citizens. Most Russian children start school at seven. When they leave school at 17 many young people continue their education at technical college and university.

Youngsters between the age of 10 and 15 can join the Young Pioneers, a Russian equivalent to the Scouts. Later still, specially chosen young people are allowed to join the youth league called Komsomol. Its members take part in sports and social activities – and a lot of serious politics.

Left: A huge gas pipe under construction in western Siberia. Russia has one of the world's largest reserves of natural gas.

Right: Russia's 'new frontier' is the Siberian wilderness, in the north of the country. Amid the taiga forests engineers and scientists live in new cities. New industries are being built, supplied with power from huge hydro-electric dams, including the largest in the world. Mineral deposits and timber add further to the enormous riches of Siberia – still only beginning to be used.

Wealth from the Land

The Russians love their land. They call it 'Mother Russia'. As you travel across it, you realize how empty most of the land is.

As you cross the vast, treeless steppes, look around. What can you see? Nothing, but a sea of wheat waving in the wind. In the distance perhaps the gleaming domes of an old village church, like an island. A cluster of modern buildings turns out to be a farm, surrounded by the neat houses of the farm workers. Some farms are run by the government. Others are owned by groups of workers, who share the work and the profits.

Each worker is allowed a small plot of land on which he can keep a pig and chickens and grow vegetables.

At harvest time combine-harvesters crawl across the vast treeless steppes like giant insects. Russia produces huge quantities of grain – mainly wheat and rye – and most of it comes from the Ukraine, the 'Granary of the USSR'. In the south it is warm enough to grow tea, tobacco and oranges.

Siberia is so desolate that for years its only inhabitants were exiled prisoners and wandering fur-trappers. Once mammoths roamed here. Yet today you can travel by air to a new city rising out of the forest and gaze at a huge hydro-electric dam arching across a wide river.

RUSSIA'S NATURAL WEALTH

Forests: Russia has the largest coniferous forests (mainly larch, pine and spruce) in the world and is the world's chief producer of wood and wood products.

Agriculture: Russia is the world's second largest agricultural producer (after the United States). It grows more potatoes, sugar beet, rye and flax than any other country.

Fishing: Russia is the world's second most important fishing country (after Japan).

Minerals: Russia has the world's largest reserves of iron ore and manganese. There are huge stocks of bauxite (from which aluminium is made), copper, silver and gold.

Power: Russia generates more power than any other country save the United States. It is the world's leading producer of both coal and oil (almost a fifth of the total) and has some of the largest reserves of natural gas.

Left: A Palace of Culture

A Cossack dancer

At Play

The Russians take their pleasures rather seriously. Sport they take very seriously indeed. And they are very successful at it, thanks to government encouragement.

There are no paid sportsmen or sportswomen in Russia – officially. But most top athletes have well-paid government jobs, which allow them plenty of time for training.

Athletics, ice hockey, skating, rowing, gymnastics and volley ball are sports at which Russia always does well. Young athletes can win special badges and certificates. The top honour is to become a Grand Master of Sport.

Excelling at sport has become for Russians a matter of prestige, especially in international competitions with Russia's rival 'superpower' – America. The state therefore spends huge sums of money on sport – on building sports centres and providing sportsmen and women with the very best coaching and equipment.

The arts, too, are taken very seriously by the Russians. The state spends vast amounts on building concert halls, theatres,

All sports are important in Russia, particularly ice hockey and athletics at which Russians excel.

The Russians are a nation of music-lovers and music-makers. Many factories have their own brass bands which play in parades and competitions.

and art galleries. Every Russian town has its Palace of Culture. There you can listen to a concert, watch an opera, see a ballet performed by a touring company, or be entertained by a troupe of local folk dancers.

Dancing is a Russian passion. Every region has its own colourful dances. Think of Russia and you will think of the ballet and Moscow's Bolshoi ballet in particular. The Bolshoi (it means 'big' in Russian) has produced some of the world's greatest dancers. Many Russian boys and girls dream of one day dancing on its stage.

Like everything else in Russia, art has to be approved first by the state. The state decides what people should see, hear and read. The authorities, for example, disapprove of most Western pop music. But smuggled-in records have proved so popular among the young that the state has been forced to allow the state recording company to issue approved Russian-made pop records.

Russia is very proud of its gymnasts. Children who show talent for this demanding sport are encouraged and receive special coaching. It takes years of hard work to reach the standards of Olympic medallists Olga Korbut and Ludmila Turischeva. But there are hundreds of youngsters in Russia who are keen to try.

For the Russians, dancing is a national passion, whether it be folk dancing or the ballet. The dream of many Russian boys and girls is of one day dancing on the stage of Moscow's famous Bolshoi theatre.

Chess (right) is Russia's most popular pastime. In summer people sit at chess boards in the parks. And it is just as popular in schools. Russia has in fact provided most of the world champion chess players in recent times.

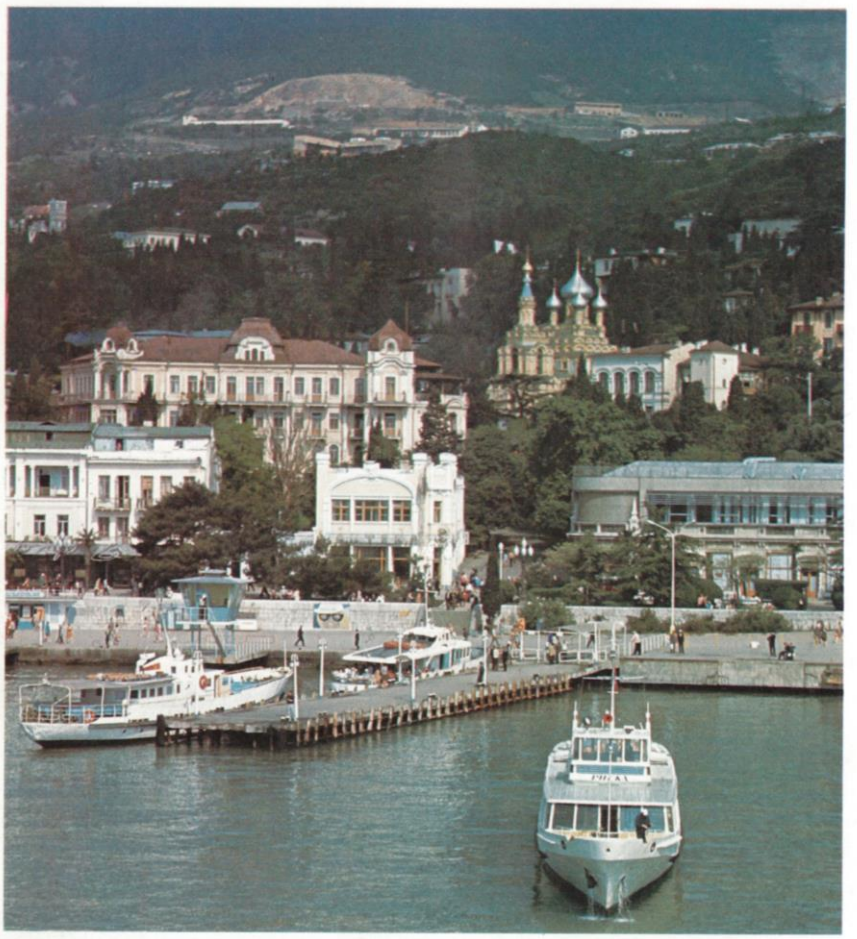
Above: A woman motor mechanic in a Moscow car factory. Russians work an average of 40 hours a week. Salaries are set by the government.

Workdays and Holidays

A hundred years ago most Russians worked on the land, as peasants. Today most people work in factories. The hammer and sickle on the Russian flag stand for the union between factory workers and peasants. All factories are controlled by the State. Inside the factory, on the walls overlooking the busy modern machines, you are sure to see a portrait of Lenin, and propaganda posters encouraging people to work hard.

Russian factories are run by managers and committees. There are committees to settle work problems, committees to run social clubs, and committees to organize holidays and sports. Everyone working in the factory belongs to the same trade union. But there is no right to strike.

Factory life continues in the evenings and at weekends, with concerts, football matches, evening classes and other activities organized by the trade union. In summer, workers can go to holiday



Below: The popular Black Sea resort of Yalta. In the days of the Tsars it was a playground of the rich who built splendid villas and palaces there.

RUSSIAN HOLIDAYS

Russia has eight national holidays. They are: January 1, New Year's Day; March 8, International Women's Day (when men give presents to their wives, girlfriends and female workmates); May 1 and 2, Labour Days; May 9, Victory Day; October 7, Constitution Day; and November 7 and 8, to mark the Anniversary of the 1917 Revolution. There are huge parades in Moscow to celebrate the May and November holidays.

resorts in the Caucasus mountains and the warm Crimean coast. Here you will see people enjoying the sun, or perhaps playing chess at open air tables in a Park of Rest and Culture.

Hard work rewarded

A holiday organized by the trade union is often a reward for hard work. Nowadays, exceptionally good workers also receive cars. When a girl tractor-driver working in Siberia was praised for her efforts, the workers at the tractor factory bought her a tractor of her own! Women tractor drivers are not unusual. In fact you will see women doing many important jobs in industry, transport and engineering. There are women ships' captains, women pilots and women engineers on the railways.

Most Russians read the newspapers. The most important are *Pravda* (Truth), the Communist party newspaper, and *Izvestiya* (News), which is controlled by the government. (There is a Russian joke which says there is no news in *Pravda* and no truth in *Izvestiya!*)

Above: As religion is discouraged in Russia, Christian feasts such as Christmas and Easter are not officially celebrated. Instead of Father Christmas, Russian children have Grandfather Frost and are given toys on the New Year's Day holiday.

SIBERIAN WILDLIFE

Below: Wildlife in Siberia and Russia's arctic regions. As winter approaches many animals change their dark, summer fur or feathers for a white coat or white plumage which blends into the snowy background. The stoat (called ermine when in its white winter coat), the blue hare and snowy owl are among those creatures that protect themselves in the winter in this way.

HIGHLIGHTS OF HISTORY

800 AD Vikings from the Baltic lands settle in Russia, until then home of various Slav tribes. Rurik, leader of the 'Rus' Vikings, founds the city of Novgorod in 862. Kiev is also founded at the same time.

988 The ruler of Kiev becomes a Christian (and forces his people to be baptized).

1200 Genghiz Khan and his Tartar armies rule.

1547 Ivan the Terrible becomes the first Tsar (emperor) of Russia.

1613 After many quarrels Michael Romanov becomes Tsar. The Romanov dynasty rules Russia until the 1917 Revolution.

1682 From 1682 to 1725 Tsar Peter the Great imposes new European ideas on Russia. He builds a New Capital, St Petersburg.

1762 From 1762 to 1796 Catherine the Great rules Russia. She increases Russian power abroad, but fails to improve the miserable conditions of the peasants, many of whom are serfs (slaves).

1812 Napoleon leads a French army of invasion. He captures Moscow, but is forced to retreat and suffers terrible losses during the savage winter.

1856 Russia is defeated in the Crimean War by France and Britain.

1861 Tsar Alexander II frees the serfs. But Russia's peasants still live in terrible poverty. Few can read or write. In 1861 Alexander is murdered by revolutionaries.

1894 Tsar Nicholas II, a weak ruler, comes to the throne.

1905 Russia is defeated by Japan, and its navy destroyed at the battle of Tsushima. This disaster sparks off a revolt.

1914 World War I begins. Russia loses millions of men in a series of defeats.

1917 After riots and strikes, the Tsar is forced to abdicate. The moderate government of Kerensky falls, and the Bolsheviks, a Communist group led by Lenin and Trotsky, seize power.

1918 Lenin makes peace with Germany. For two years there is civil war between the Red Army of the Communists and the White Army of their opponents. By 1920 the Communists are victorious.

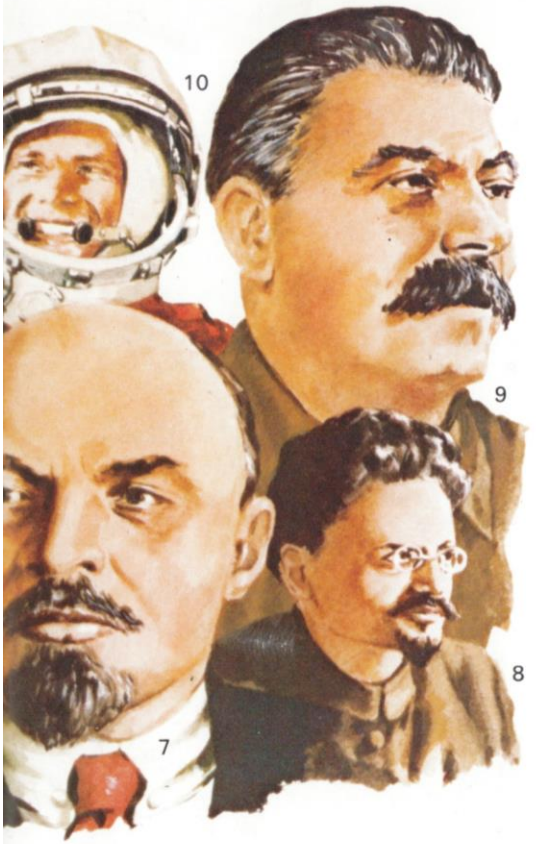
1924 Lenin dies, and is succeeded by Joseph Stalin.

1928 Russia's first 'Five Year Plan', aimed at modernizing the country, begins. The 1930s see great changes in industry and agriculture. The opponents of Stalin are either murdered or imprisoned.

1941 German armies invade Russia and reach Moscow. More than 18 million Russians are killed during World War II.

1946 After Germany's defeat, Russian armies overrun eastern Europe. An 'iron curtain' divides east and west, and a 'cold war' of suspicion and rivalry begins between Russia and the United States.

1953 Stalin dies. After four years of shared rule, Khrushchev becomes sole leader of Russia.



1. Ivan the Terrible, the first Tsar.
2. Peter the Great – architect of Russia's new capital, St Petersburg.
3. Catherine the Great.
4. Napoleon retreats from Moscow.
5. Tolstoy – author of War and Peace.
6. Tchaikovsky – composer of world-famous ballets.
7. Lenin – founder of modern Russia.
8. Trotsky, Lenin's colleague.
9. Stalin – ruthlessly purged all rivals.
10. Gagarin – first man in space.
11. The Russian Ballet.
12. Naval battle at Tsushima.

1956 Anti-Russian uprising in Hungary crushed by Soviet troops.
1957 Russia launches *sputnik.*
1961 Yuri Gagarin is the first man in space.
1962 The Cuba crisis. Confrontation between Russia and United States over Russian missiles and bombers based in Cuba. Russia agrees to withdraw its Cuban bases.
1964 Khrushchev is replaced by Leonid Brezhnev and Aleksei Kosygin. By the 1970s Brezhnev is the most powerful man in Russia.
1968 Russian troops invade Czechoslovakia to crush liberalism of Czech Communist secretary, Dubcek.
1971 Russia launches Salyut, the world's first orbital space station.

FAMOUS RUSSIAN COMPOSERS

(and some of their works)

Borodin, Alexander (1834–87). *Prince Igor* (opera).
Glinka, Mikhail (1803–57). *Russlan and Ludmila; A Life of the Tsar* (operas).
Mussorgsky, Modest (1835–81). *Boris Godunov* (an opera based on a play by Pushkin).
Prokofiev, Sergei (1891–1953). *The Love for Three Oranges; Peter and the Wolf.*
Rachmaninov, Sergei (1873–1943). Pianist, conductor, and composer of piano works.
Rimsky-Korsakov, Nicholas (1844–1908). *Scheherazade.*
Shostakovich, Dmitri (1906–). Composer of symphonies, operas, and ballets. The USSR's leading composer, despite repeated Soviet disapproval.
Stravinsky, Igor (1882–1971). Russian-born American. His new discordant' music was much criticised at first. *Firebird, Petrouchka* (ballets).
Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilyich (1840–93). Most popular of Russian composers. *Piano Concerto No. 1,* ballets *Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker.*

A 16th-century ikon of the Virgin and Child. Ikon is a Greek word meaning image. Artists who painted these holy pictures of the Russian church all followed the same traditional style.

Right: The Russian dancers Waslaw Nijinsky and Tamara Karsivina in the ballet Spectre de la Rose, *created for Diaghilev's Russian ballet company. Nijinsky was one of the greatest male dancers ever known. At only 27 he became insane.*

FAMOUS RUSSIAN WRITERS

(and some of their works)

Chekhov, Anton (1860–1904). Playwright. *Uncle Vanya, The Three Sisters, The Cherry Orchard.*
Dostoevsky, Fyodor (1821–81). Novelist. *Crime and Punishment; The Brothers Karamazov.*
Gogol, Nikolai (1809–52). *The Inspector General* (comedy); *Dead Souls* (novel).
Lomonosov, Mikhail (1711–65). Poet, grammarian and historian. Known as the father of Russian literature.
Pasternak, Boris (1890–1960). Novelist and poet. *Doctor Zhivago.*
Pushkin, Alexander (1799–1837). Poet, playwright and novelist. *Boris Godunov.*
Tolstoy, Leo (1828–1910). *Anna Karenina; War and Peace* (novels).
Solzhenitsyn, Alexander (1918–). Expelled from Russia in 1974 for publication in the West of *The Gulag Archipelago,* a denunciation of Russian labour camps. Other novels: *Cancer Ward; August 1914.*

SOME FAMOUS PLACES

ASTRAKHAN Tartar city on the delta of the Volga river. (Astrakhan coats are made from the curly, glossy black coat of *karakul* lambs.)

BAIKAL World's deepest lake. Its unique wildlife includes the only freshwater seals in the world.

BAIKONUR Russian space launching centre.

YEREVAN Founded 2500 years ago, the capital of Armenia and the oldest city in Russia.

KIEV Historic city on the Dnieper river. Called the 'mother of Russian cities'.

LENINGRAD (formerly St Petersburg and then for a time Petrograd), its sights include the Hermitage Museum and Petrodverets, the Summer Palace of Peter the Great (1715).

MOSCOW The Kremlin's more unusual curiosities include the world's largest bell, 193 tons and never rung; and a 40-ton cannon (1586) which was never fired.

A 13th-century monastery at Novgorod, an ancient and once very important city. Despite official discouragement of religion, a few monasteries remain open.

Below: One of the great sights of Leningrad – the magnificent, baroque Great Catherine Palace. Leningrad (formerly St Petersburg) was founded by Peter the Great as 'a window into Europe'.

MURMANSK The largest city inside the Arctic Circle, kept ice-free by a warm sea current.

ODESSA Port of the Black Sea, scene of the Potemkin mutiny in 1905.

SAMARKAND A city in the Uzbek SSR. The ancient capital of the Mongol chieftain Tamerlane who decorated the city with magnificent mosques, gardens and palaces.

SEVASTOPOL Famous for the siege which took place during the Crimean War (1853–56).

VLADIVOSTOK Pacific port and eastern terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railway. The name means 'ruler of the East'.

YALTA Holiday resort on the Black Sea.

	Republic	Capital
1	Armenian SSR*	Yerevan
2	Azerbaijan SSR	Baku
3	Belorussian SSR	Minsk
4	Estonian SSR	Tallinn
5	Georgian SSR	Tbilisi
6	Kazakh SSR	Alma-Ata
7	Kirghiz SSR	Frunze
8	Latvian SSR	Riga
9	Lithuanian SSR	Vilnius
10	Moldavian SSR	Kishinev
11	Russian SFSR	Moscow
12	Tadzhik SSR	Dushanbe
13	Turkmen SSR	Ashkhabad
14	Ukrainian SSR	Kiev
15	Uzbek SSR	Tashkent

*SSR stands for Soviet Socialist Republic

THE TRANSSIB

You can travel right across Russia by train, on the Trans-Siberian railway, the longest railway in the world. The journey from Moscow to the port of Vladivostok on the Pacific Ocean, a distance of 9338 kilometres, takes eight days.

It was once described as a 'rusty streak of iron through a vastness of nothing to the extremity of nowhere'. But the railway, which was begun in 1891 and finished in 1905, has opened up this 'vastness of nothing' – the huge wilderness of Siberia. Old cities were connected and new cities grew up beside its track. Building the railway presented many problems, because of the wild country. Until 1916 there was no track round Lake Baikal. Passengers had to cross the lake in boats or in sledges when the water was frozen.

A Troika, or sledge drawn by three horses, is still occasionally seen in Russia.

TRAVEL IN RUSSIA

A hundred years ago travel was very difficult in this vast country. There were few roads or railways. In winter people travelled by sledge. Peasants hauled barges on the river.

Today you can fly across the USSR in a few hours in a jet airliner. Country roads are improving as more Russians buy cars. Fuel and goods are carried by rail, canal, and by pipelines.

To travel anywhere in the USSR Russians need a passport. Most people are issued with a passport when they are sixteen.

RUSSIAN TERMS

AEROFLOT Russian state airline, and the largest in the world.

BALALAIKA Guitar-like musical instrument, with a triangular-shaped body.

BLINY Small wheat pancakes.

BOLSHEVIKS Communist group led by Lenin (the word means 'majority').

BOLSHOI Russia's most famous ballet company, founded in 1825.

BORSCH Vegetable soup made from beetroot and cabbage.

CAVIAR The eggs (roe) of the sturgeon, a large fish found in the Caspian Sea. It is a famous delicacy.

COMECON Eastern Europe's 'Common Market', headed by the USSR.

COSSACKS Warlike people from southwest Russia, famous for their horsemanship and dancing. They often served as the Tsar's bodyguard.

COSMONAUT Russian word for astronaut or space traveller.

DOM KULTURY (or Palace of Culture) Arts and cultural centre found in most towns.

DUMA, the old Russian parliament (before 1917).

FIVE YEAR PLANS Through the State planning committee (Gosplan) the government sets targets for industry and agriculture. The first Five Year Plan was launched in 1928.

IZVESTIYA Newspaper published by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. *Izvestiya* means 'news'.

KGB The State Committee on Security, Russia's secret police.

KOLKHOZ, collective or co-operative farm; there are about 40,000 in the USSR.

KOMSOMOL The Young Communist League, for young people aged 15 to 26.

KVASS A traditional Russian drink, rye beer flavoured with mint or raspberry.

LENIN METRO Moscow's underground railway.

MATRYOSHKA A series of wooden dolls which fit inside one another.

PIONEERS Organization for young people.

POLITBURO Small group of leading Communist Party members who control the government. The word means 'political bureau'.

PRAVDA Newspaper published by the Central Committee of the Communist Party. It means 'truth'.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH Once very powerful but now officially discouraged.

SALYUT Large orbital space station.

SAMOVAR Russian tea-urn with burner to keep tea hot.

SOVIET (or 'council') The first soviets were revolutionary groups of workers, soldiers and peasants who seized power in 1917.

SOVKHOZ Russian state-run farm; there are about 7000 of them.

SOYUZ Two-man spacecraft of the 1970s.

SPARTAKIADS Annual athletic contests for children and young people.

SPUTNIK An artificial satellite.

STEPPES Treeless grassy plains of southwest USSR.

SUPREME SOVIET The 'parliament' of the USSR.

TAIGA Forest zone of Siberia, coniferous in the north, mixed conifers and deciduous trees for the south.

TASS The official Russian news agency.

TROIKA Three-horse sledge used in winter.

TSAR (pronounced *zar*) Title of the emperor in old Russia. The word was derived from the Roman Caesars.

TUNDRA Cold treeless wastes of the Arctic region.

USHANKA Russian fur hat with ear flaps.

VODKA Russia's national drink, distilled from rye.

WARSAW PACT Eastern Europe's military alliance, controlled by the USSR.

COMMUNIST PARTY, the only party recognized in the USSR and to which about 10 per cent of Russians belong. Membership is a privilege rather than a right and is usually essential for anyone wanting an important job.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS The official government of the USSR. Its members are chosen by the Supreme Soviet. Real power lies with the Politburo, the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

Below: Construction workers reading Pravda, *the Communist Party newspaper. Copies are pasted up in public places and millions of Russians read it every day. It is a serious paper and is strictly censored.*

The Russian Language

There are more than 100 languages spoken in the USSR. But the chief language is Russian. Russian words look strange to us because they are written in a different alphabet—the Cyrillic alphabet. The Cyrillic alphabet was invented by St Cyril of Thessalonika in the 9th century.

The Russian Alphabet

А а = a as in *a*rk
Б б = b
В в = v
Г г = g as in *g*old
Д д = d
Е е = ye as in *ye*llow
ё = yo as in *yo*nder
Ж ж = zh
З з = z
И и = ee as in w*ee*d
й = i (tenser than i in w*i*t)
К к = k
Л л = l
М м = m
Н н = n
О о = o as in t*o*rn
П п = p
Р р = r
С с = s
Т т = t
У у = oo as in m*oo*n
Ф ф = f
Х х = ch as in lo*ch*
Ц ц = ts
Ч ч = ch as in *ch*urch
Ш ш = sh
Щ щ = sh followed by consonantal y
ы = i as in w*i*t
Э э = e as in p*e*t
Ю ю = u as in *u*nicorn
Я я = ya as in *ya*rn

The Russian motto is: Workers of the World, Unite! *The hammer and sickle is an emblem of the union of peasants and industrial workers, and the star is a symbol of the Communist party.*

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Morning
Midday
Full title Soyuz Sovyetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – USSR). The USSR was founded on 30 December 1922. It is a union of 15 independent Socialist Republics.
Coastline (total) about 43,000 km.
Area 22,395,000 square km. Russia is the biggest country on earth. It is about two and a half times as large as the USA.
Russian whaling fleet
Polar bear
FINLAND
Murmansk
BALTIC SEA
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Leningrad, Russia's second city, and the main cultural centre
Riga
HUNGARY
POLAND
Leningrad
Arkhangelsk
ARCTIC CIRCLE
Siberian tiger, now rare, is paler than the tigers of south east Asia
St Basil's cathedral, Moscow
Horse-drawn sledges are still used in winter
Vodka, Russia's national drink, is made from rye
URAL MOUNTAINS
Odessa Steps, made famous by the film Battleship Potemkin
ROMANIA
Kiev
Moscow
R. Oka
Wolves and bears roam the Siberian forests
Odessa
R. Dnieper
A Bolshoi ballet dancer
R. Ob
R. Yenisey
R. Volga
Vineyards
Sevastopol
Black Sea
R. Don
Samovar
Tea-picking
Hydro-electric schemes
Matryoshka dolls
TURKEY
Omsk
Novosibirsk
Astrakhan
The Trans-Siberian Railway – the world's longest railway
CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS
Caspian Sea
Aral Sea
Baikonur
Soviet space-launching site
Baku
Sturgeon. Its roe (caviar) is a great delicacy
Lake Balkhash
Cotton
Fine rugs have been made in Turkestan for centuries
IRAN
Tashkent
Alma Alta
Yaks, the cattle of the Himalayas
Bukhara
Samarkand
A Muslim minaret – still seen in Uzbekistan and other Asiatic areas of Russia.
Highest mountain Communism Peak (7495 metres).
Communism Peak
AFGHANISTAN

Evening
Time zones The USSR covers 11 of the world's 24 time zones. There is a 10-hour difference from west to east. When it is 8 o'clock in the morning in Leningrad, it is 6 o'clock in the evening of the same day on the pacific coast.
Reindeer
Silver fox
Population 255 million, of whom three-quarters live in the western part of the USSR. In population Russia is the third largest country. It includes over 150 different racial groups.
RCTIC OCEAN
BERING SEA
Walrus
Ermine (called a stoat in summer)
CHERSKIY MOUNTAINS
Language Russian is the official language. About 150 other languages are also spoken.
Reading The Soviet citizen spends an average of 31 minutes a day reading books.
Verkhoyansk
Coldest town in the world (−67°C in mid-winter)
Siberia's vast mineral wealth is being exploited
VERKHOYANSK MOUNTAINS
Centenarians Russia has the world's largest number of people aged over 100 – in 1970 there were 19,300 headed by Medjid Agayev, aged 142.
The taiga – vast conifer forests – cover most of Siberia
SIBERIA
R. Lena
Imports Grain, industrial equipment, chemicals, electrical machinery.
In desert areas camels are still used to carry loads
R. Amur
Exports Machinery, minerals, timber, furs, oil, metal goods. Most of this trade is with the Communist countries of eastern Europe.
Baikal seal — the world's only fresh-water seal
Lake Baikal
Panda
Irkutsk
JAPAN
SEA OF JAPAN
CHINA
Vladivostok
A 'yurt' or felt ...nt used by nomadic ...es
A Mongolian horseman
MONGOLIA
Principal cities:
Moscow (Russian SFSR)
Leningrad (Russian SFSR)
Kiev (Ukrainian SSR)
Tashkent (Uzbek SSR)
Baku (Azerbaijan SSR)
Kharkov (Ukrainian SSR)
Gorky (Russian SFSR)
Novosibirsk (Russian SFSR)
Chief ports:
Murmansk (Arctic Ocean)
Archangelsk (White Sea)
Leningrad (Baltic Sea)
Kalinin (Baltic Sea)
Riga (Baltic Sea)
Odessa (Black Sea)
Baku (Caspian Sea)
Vladivostok (Pacific Ocean)
Longest rivers
Yenisey (4000 km)
Lena (4000 km)
Amur (2800 km)
Volga (3700 km)
Largest desert Kara Kum (300,000 square km).
Largest lake Caspian Sea (438,695 square km.), an inland salt lake which is also the largest lake in the world.

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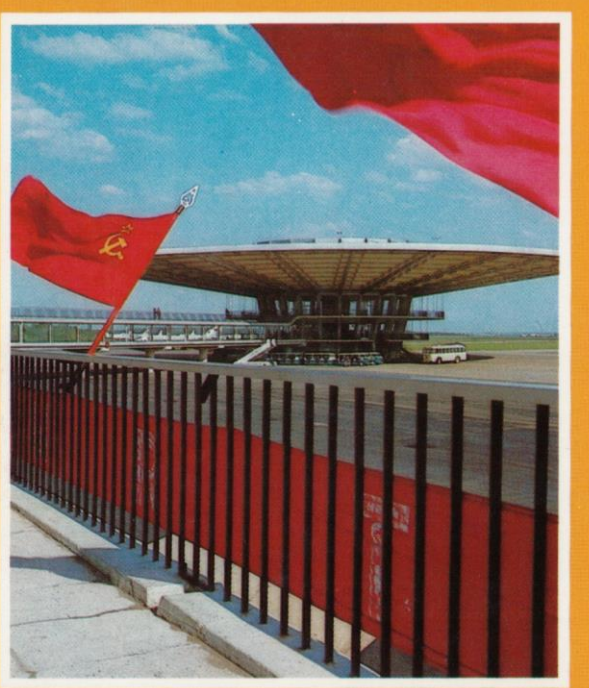

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